

WEEQUAHIC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

249 Pomona Avenue
Newark 12, New Jersey

Waverly 6-4438

March 27, 1962

Mr. Stanley B. Winters
26 Shanley Avenue
Newark 8, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Winters:

Nearly 10,000 people will be uprooted and 1,000 good middle-income residences will be destroyed, if Route 78 is permitted to follow the proposed course laid out for it through the Weequahic section of Newark.

The hardships imposed on the more than 2,000 families involved would be intolerable even if there were space to build or unoccupied apartments or homes available. However, Newark is a landlocked community and no facilities are available. Many of the people displaced by the highway will be financially unable to purchase homes in suburbs to which they will be driven. Others do not wish to leave the community. Still others are unwelcome in the suburbs because of race or creed. There is no other place for these people in Newark.

The proposed route of the highway would remove millions of dollars in ratables from the city books and impose additional tax burdens for those of us left in the city.

It would create a "Chinese wall or moat" (depending on whether the highway is elevated or depressed) which would cut a huge portion of the city away from the heart and body.

A question of cost has been raised (construction of an additional seven-tenths-of-one-mile of highway) if one particular alternate route is chosen. There is considerable question as to whether the cost involved in buying a vastly greater amount of developed property wouldn't amply compensate for the difference in actual road surface. But even if it didn't there is no question but that the human values greatly outweigh the monetary considerations.

As great as the need for a highway may be, the needs of the individuals and the community are greater. An alternate proposal must be agreed to. If there is no satisfactory alternate, then there must be NO HIGHWAY.

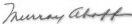
The support of the 40,000 residents of the Weequahic area as well as the vast majority of the rest of the City of Newark is solidly behind keeping the highway out and the people in Newark.

The Weequahic Community Council, representing the interests of the local populace, is interested in knowing what action you are taking now to defeat the ruthless routing of a highway and uprooting of a populace.

Action is needed now, since any inactivity would probably mean acceding to the proposed plan by default --- and in effect, its support.

Please let us know what help we can expect from you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Murray Aboff". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Murray Aboff
President